

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2013, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present:

Jessica Andrade, Katherine Beckett, Alejandra Gonza, Michael Mitchell, Andrea Negrete, Marty Penner, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Phone:

Isabel Bussarakum, Catherine Moore

Commissioners Absent:

Nika Dahlbacka, David Lujano, Marsha Mavunkel, Greg Ramirez, Christopher Stearns, Christina Ygona

SOCR Staff Present:

Felicia Yearwood

Guest Speakers:

Social Outreach Seattle, Chris Beisenherz

Guests:

Two UW interns Moe Aoki and Miriam Elnemr

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

January 2013 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report:

Felicia Yearwood

- Five Commission meeting on Wednesday February 13th 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. We will demonstrate application of the racial equity toolkit to an issue where two or more of the commissions have overlapping interests and might seek to work collaboratively.
- Over a dozen commissioners attended the training on Race the Power of an Illusion.

Presentation by Guest Speakers:

Chris Beisenherz, [Social Outreach Seattle](#)

- Formed in July 2012 to promote LGBTQIA community equity
- Asking the Commission to become a coalition partner

Committee Reports:

Executive:

MOTION: To ratify the Resolution on the Violence Against Women Act.

ACTION: PASSED

Chris Stearns testified before the City Council Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee regarding SPD use of drones. Mayor McGinn subsequently ordered that the SPD stop using the drones it had received and return them to the vendor.

Community Police Commissioners will attend the March meeting of the SHRC if they are confirmed and functioning by that time.

The Consent Decree Monitor asked the City Council that time is of the essence with respect to appointing the CPC. The Mayor's staff has asked the SHRC to similarly write the Council and urge speedy confirmation.

MOTION: To delegate a group of Commissioners – Jessica Andrade, Isabel Bussarakum, Catherine Moore, and Chris Stearns – to draft a letter to City Council expressing that while the SHRC expresses no view regarding the fitness of any candidate and acknowledges that thorough review of candidates is necessary, Council is urged to complete its process expeditiously so that the CPC may begin its important work. **ACTION: PASSED**

Assault Weapons Ban – Marsha Mavunkel has volunteered to follow up with CM Harrell's office. Felicia will check on her progress.

Secure Communities

Katherine Beckett is drafting a report on the cost implications of ICE detentions based on 2011 data. Will include who is being detained and for what types of offenses. Will consult with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and OneAmerica regarding next steps before issuance of an SHRC resolution. The Women's Commission has expressed a desire to collaborate with SHRC on immigration issues.

Death Penalty

Alejandra Gonza reported that observations of Seattle University's International Human Rights Clinic have been incorporated into to the resolution. Lobby day February 12, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MOTION: to issue resolution opposing the death penalty after additional editing.
ACTION: PASSED

Annual Report

Andrea Negrete and Michal Mitchell will work to flesh out the previously distributed outline.

Appeals

Jessica Andrade, Michael Mitchell, and Marty Penner will serve on the February panel.

Law and Policy Analysis

Jennifer Yogi reported that the Jobs Assistance legislation is being reviewed by the City Attorney's office. The Criminal Records Roundtable was unsuccessful in getting an opinion piece into the Seattle Times – will perhaps ask a second chance employer to submit.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Michael Mitchell reported that planning is underway. Commissioners are asked to consider holding the event in December to coincide with Human Rights Day. That would provide more time to solidify sponsorships and plan the event.

Projects for UW Students

Katherine Beckett introduced two students in attendance: Moe Aoki and Miriam Elnemr. Moe is working with Michael Mitchell to develop a human rights budget analysis tool. Miriam is working with Isabel Bussarakum on a research project to determine whether short term or long term housing is more effective at ending homelessness. [The third student, Sara, was working with Christina Ygona on the anniversary event, but will not continue.]

Police Accountability

The Monitor has visited several precincts and engaged in a ride along with SPD officers. SPD must submit a new policy including training to the Monitor by March 6th. No agreement has been reached regarding the level of staffing required by the CPC. The Monitor's team will review use of force files and review the Defender's Association's racial bias study. A technology specialist will review the SPD databases and make recommendations for integration and upgrade. Nika Dahlbacka is working on comments.

Old Business

MOTION: To express support for the Youth Opportunity Act HB1651 regarding sealing of juvenile records. **ACTION: PASSED**

Alejandra Gonza will participate in the planning meeting for Father Alejandro Solalinde's visit to Seattle and will ask Father Solalinde to attend the Commission's monthly meeting.

Alejandra Gonza is meeting with the President of the United Nations Association and will follow up to raise awareness about human rights abuses in South Sudan.

Announcements: Five Commission Meeting: 2/13/13, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Next SHRC meeting: 3/7/13, 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.